

## Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 ARA-10 IO-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00

NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 L-02 INR-10

RSC-01 PRS-01 DRC-01 /049 W  
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O R 191515Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6866

INFO USMISSION USUN NY

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

S E C R E T NEW DELHI 11002

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IN, US

SUBJECT: MRS. GANDHI'S REMARKS ON CHILE

REF: A) CALCUTTA 1741 (NOTAL)

B) STATE 10;145

1. I MANAGED A BRIEF PRIVATE TALK ABOUT MRS. GANDHI'S ALLEGATIONS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER SWARAN SINGH AT THE AIRPORT PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FOR NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER 18. I TOLD HIM THAT I WAS CONCERNED ABOUT MRS. GANDHI'S IMPLICATION THAT THE US HAD INTERFERED IN CHILE AND IN INDIA. THE US, OF COURSE, HAD NOT DONE SO. AS WE BOTH KNEW, THE US HAD ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS CATEGORICALLY DENIED CHARGES OF INTERFERENCE IN INDIA. FURTHERMORE, WHEN WE HAD ASKED FOR SPECIFIC EVIDENCE, THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA HAD NOT PRESENTED ANY. I SAID THAT THE US DID NOT WISH TO BE USED AS A POLITICAL SCAPEGOAT IN INDIA. I CONCLUDED THAT I FEARED ALLEGATIONS SUCH AS THESE COULD

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HAVE A SERIOUS EFFECT ON US-INDIAN RELATIONS, WHICH I

FELT HAD BEEN IMPROVING.  
SUCH REMARKS SEEMED INCONSISTENT  
WITH EFFORTS BEING MADE TOWARD THIS IMPROVEMENT.

2. THE FOREIGN MINISTER INTERRUPTED ME SEVERAL TIMES,  
ON EACH OCCASION TO MAKE THE SAME STATEMENT: MRS. GANDHI  
HAD NOT SINGLED OUT THE US FOR  
CRITICISM. HER COMMENTS  
WERE NOT DIRECTED TOWARD THE UNITED STATES. HE CALLED  
ATTENTION TO HIS OWN SPEECH AND THE CONGRESS PARTY  
FOREIGN  
AFFAIRS RESOLUTION WHICH CAREFULLY AVOIDED REFERENCE TO  
OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE. HE NOTED THAT THIS WAS THE FIRST  
AICC MEETING IN SOME TIME IN WHICH THE US WAS NOT  
SPECIFICALLY SINGLED OUT FOR CRITICISM.

3. I SAID I RECOGNIZED THAT MRS. GANDHI HAD NOT  
SPECIFICALLY NAMED THE US BUT THE MEANING OF HER REMARKS  
SEEMED CLEAR. I ASKED HIM IF HE COULD TELL ME THAT THE  
PRIME MINISTER DID NOT IN FACT HAVE THE US IN MIND. HE  
REPLIED THAT HE HAD NOT DISCUSSED THE MATTER WITH THE  
PRIME MINISTER.

4. FOLLOWING OUR SHORT CONVERSATION, SWARAN SINGH SHIFTED  
TO THE OTHER CORNER OF THE ROOM WHERE HE MET WITH A SMALL  
GROUP OF CORRESPONDENTS. THERE HE MADE A STATEMENT  
REPORTED BY THE PRESS SEPTEMBER 19, THAT INDIA-US RELATIONS  
WERE SLOWLY IMPROVING AND THAT BOTH INDIA AND THE US  
DESIRED TO REMOVE THE MISUNDERSTANDINGS CREATED BY THE  
EVENTS OF 1971. HE ALSO INFORMED REPORTERS THERE WAS  
CHANCE HE WOULD VISIT WASHINGTON TO EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH  
SECRETARY KISSINGER  
AND OTHER OFFICIALS.

5. COMMENT: OUR CONVERSATION WAS CALM AND FRIENDLY  
THROUGHOUT; IT ENDED WITH MY WISHING THE FOREIGN MINISTER  
WELL ON HIS US JOURNEY. IT WAS CLEAR FROM HIS REPLY TO ME  
AND HIS REMARKS TO THE PRESS THAT HE HOPES THAT THIS  
EPISODE WILL NOT INTERFERE WITH HIS EFFORTS TO KEEP  
US-INDIAN RELATIONS ON THEIR UPWARD TREND. IT REMAINS  
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QUITE POSSIBLE, HOWEVER, THAT OTHER CONGRESS PARTY LEADERS  
WILL PICK UP MRS. GANDHI'S THEME AND FURTHER COMPLICATE  
THE ATMOSPHERE OF US-INDIAN RELATIONS.  
SCHNEIDER

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## Message Attributes

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**To:** STATE  
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